TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 16, 2002 LB 1149

185 percent, 20 percent disregard. We will also disregard any child expenses even though...or excuse me, any childcare even though that might be supplied by the state also, and then the...any insurance that they have, but there's no asset limit You can have \$1 million in the bank and still whatsoever. qualify for this type of service. If you were working and had a job where you were receiving \$150,000 a year and left that job, didn't have a job for one month, you could go in and sign up your kids for Kids Connection. They would be automatically enrolled for 12 months. The following month you get a \$120,000 a year; your kids are still in the program for All this bill would have done was reduce the 12 months. 12 months to 6 months in which to take a look at their income to if they still qualified. But getting back to the approach, I think we need to look at all Medicaid programs that we have to determine who is eligible and who is not. Certainly, the biggest pie of that Medicaid program are the elderly that we pay for in long-term care. We also, as a committee, I think need to look at alternatives to long-term care, home care, allowing individuals to help support those individuals in their homes, again, to delay that initiation or going into long-term care. We have a group of baby boomers that are soon going to arrive on the scene, and we're going to look at our long-term care really exploding, not only in this state, but in many other states. So I'm looking forward to an interim to look at how we address all Medicaid including the Kids Connection to determine qualifications, what the income should be, and I look for...to work with the Appropriations Committee on that through the interim and then come back next year to address this issue.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: With that, Mr. Speaker, I will ask that you lay over LB 1149 and the accompanying A bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Jensen, I'm going to treat your request as a request to ask the Speaker to take the bill off the agenda. I will do so...

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you.